

Transition from college to work

The attainment of a bachelor's degree is one measure of the skills learned through college attendance. In recent years, concern about the difficulties recent graduates encounter in making the transition from college to work has grown. Students, their families, and educational policymakers are interested in graduates' employment prospects and how they relate to their fields of study.

- In April 1994, two-thirds (67 percent) of recent college graduates were employed full time and were not enrolled in postsecondary education; 9 percent were employed part time and were not enrolled. About three-fourths (76 percent) of those who worked full time and who were not enrolled had jobs with career potential.
- Although about three-fourths (78 percent) of recent graduates who worked full time and who were not enrolled reported that their jobs were related to their field of study, only 60 percent reported that a college degree was required to get their job.
- There were no measurable differences among the percentages of recent graduates who were unemployed by field of study (see supplemental table 31-1).
- Females who majored in seven fields of study (business and management, public affairs/social services, biological sciences, mathematics and science, social sciences, humanities, and "other" majors) were more likely than males to work in the traditionally female occupations of administrative and clerical support (see supplemental table 31-1).

Percentage of 1992-93 college graduates, by employment and enrollment status, relatedness of jobs to education, and selected characteristics: April 1994

Selected characteristics	Employment and enrollment status					Relatedness of job to education ¹		
	Employed full time, not enrolled	Employed part time, not enrolled	In labor force, enrolled ²	Not in labor force, enrolled	Not employed, not enrolled ³	Job related to field of study	Job required college degree	Job had career potential
Total	67.1	8.7	12.4	5.5	6.3	77.6	59.9	75.7
Field of study								
Business and management	80.0	5.3	7.9	1.9	4.9	87.1	54.1	79.6
Education	59.9	16.1	14.4	4.8	4.8	80.4	72.1	78.1
Engineering	69.2	3.4	13.7	7.2	6.5	90.0	83.0	85.8
Health professions	68.6	8.4	12.9	4.5	5.6	94.4	77.4	84.6
Public affairs/social services	70.3	9.0	9.2	5.0	6.5	73.5	53.0	71.6
Biological sciences	44.3	8.4	17.4	18.3	11.5	69.5	54.7	62.1
Mathematics and science	60.8	8.5	14.9	9.9	5.9	87.1	71.0	80.8
Social sciences	66.6	7.0	13.1	6.1	7.2	57.7	48.8	72.3
History	64.9	8.1	16.4	6.6	4.0	40.6	43.4	69.3
Humanities	59.2	12.8	13.5	5.9	8.5	58.2	50.1	69.1
Psychology	56.5	6.9	19.5	8.8	8.3	59.2	54.5	54.1
Other	69.4	9.0	11.4	3.6	6.6	75.2	55.0	70.5
Sex								
Male	69.2	6.8	11.9	6.3	5.7	76.6	59.1	78.0
Female	65.3	10.3	12.8	4.7	6.9	78.4	60.5	73.6
College grade point average								
Less than 3.0	71.7	8.9	11.1	2.2	6.1	73.2	54.6	74.2
3.0 to 3.49	68.2	7.9	12.7	5.0	6.3	78.7	63.0	74.7
3.5 and higher	61.1	9.3	14.1	9.4	6.0	81.5	61.6	79.2

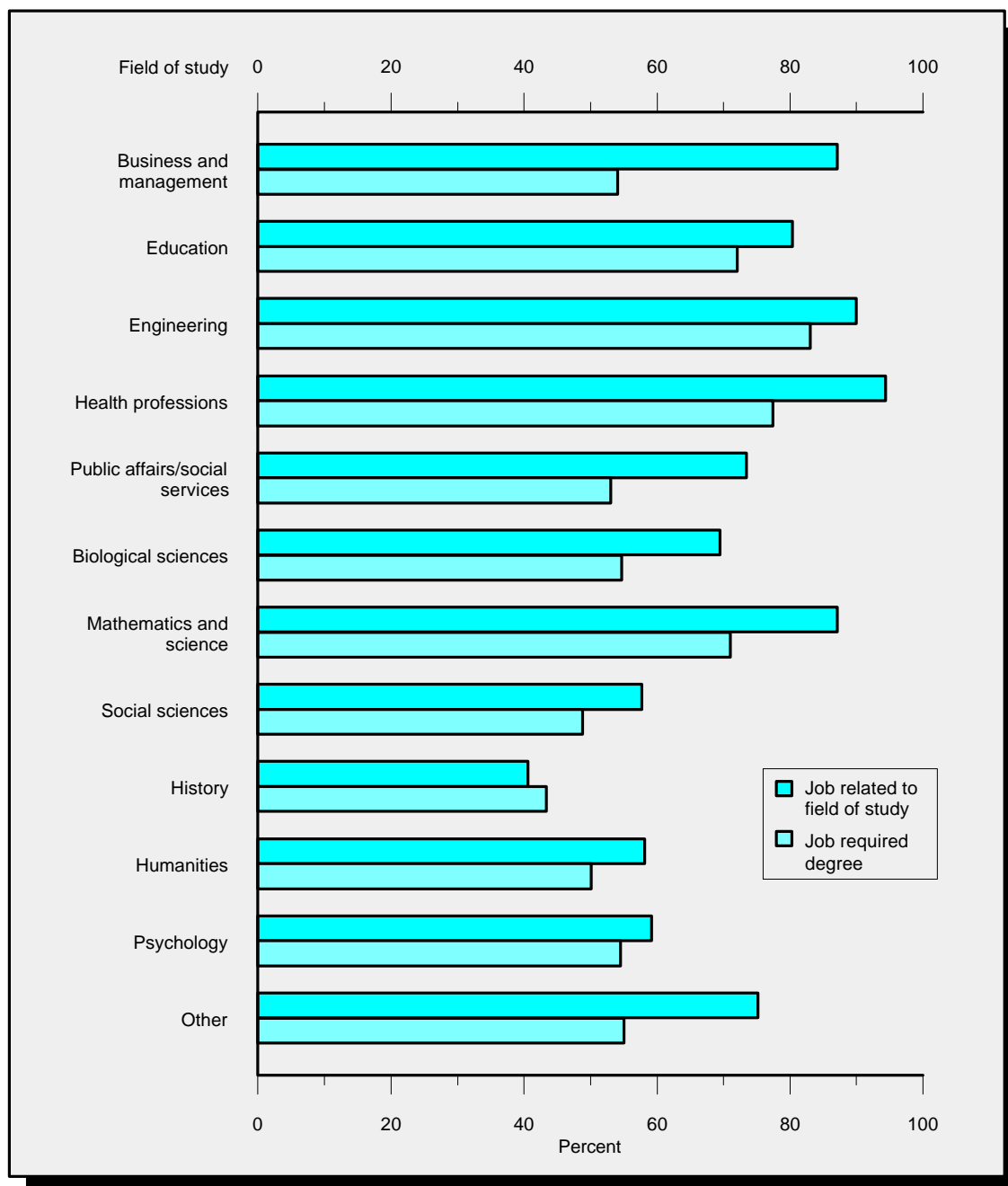
¹ Includes only those who worked full time and who were not enrolled in postsecondary education.

² Includes persons who worked full time or part time or who were unemployed.

³ Includes persons who were not in the work force or who were unemployed.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1993 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study, First Follow-up (B&B:93/94).

Percentage of 1992–93 college graduates who worked full time and who were not enrolled in postsecondary education whose jobs were related to their field of study, and the percentage of those whose jobs required a college degree: April 1994



NOTE: Includes only those who worked full time and who were not enrolled in postsecondary education.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1993 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study, First Follow-up (B&B:93/94).

Percentage of 1992–93 college graduates, by employment and enrollment status, relatedness of jobs to education, and selected characteristics: April 1994

Selected characteristics	Employment and enrollment status					Relatedness of job to education ¹		
	Employed full time, not enrolled	Employed part time, not enrolled	In labor force, enrolled ²	Not in labor force, not enrolled	Not employed, not enrolled ³	Job related to field of study	Job required college degree	Job had career potential
Total	67.1	8.7	12.4	5.5	6.3	77.6	59.9	75.7
Field of study								
Business and management	80.0	5.3	7.9	1.9	4.9	87.1	54.1	79.6
Education	59.9	16.1	14.4	4.8	4.8	80.4	72.1	78.1
Engineering	69.2	3.4	13.7	7.2	6.5	90.0	83.0	85.8
Health professions	68.6	8.4	12.9	4.5	5.6	94.4	77.4	84.6
Public affairs/social services	70.3	9.0	9.2	5.0	6.5	73.5	53.0	71.6
Biological sciences	44.3	8.4	17.4	18.3	11.5	69.5	54.7	62.1
Mathematics and science	60.8	8.5	14.9	9.9	5.9	87.1	71.0	80.8
Social sciences	66.6	7.0	13.1	6.1	7.2	57.7	48.8	72.3
History	64.9	8.1	16.4	6.6	4.0	40.6	43.4	69.3
Humanities	59.2	12.8	13.5	5.9	8.5	58.2	50.1	69.1
Psychology	56.5	6.9	19.5	8.8	8.3	59.2	54.5	54.1
Other	69.4	9.0	11.4	3.6	6.6	75.2	55.0	70.5
Sex								
Male	69.2	6.8	11.9	6.3	5.7	76.6	59.1	78.0
Female	65.3	10.3	12.8	4.7	6.9	78.4	60.5	73.6
College grade point average								
Less than 3.0	71.7	8.9	11.1	2.2	6.1	73.2	54.6	74.2
3.0 to 3.49	68.2	7.9	12.7	5.0	6.3	78.7	63.0	74.7
3.5 and higher	61.1	9.3	14.1	9.4	6.0	81.5	61.6	79.2

¹ Includes only those who worked full time and who were not enrolled in postsecondary education.

² Includes persons who worked full time or part time or who were unemployed.

³ Includes persons who were not in the work force or who were unemployed.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1993 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study, First Follow-up (B&B:93/94).

Table 31-1 Percentage of 1992–93 college graduates who were working in administrative or clerical support occupations, and the percentage who were unemployed, by sex and field of study: April 1994

Field of study	Percentage in administrative or clerical support occupations		Percentage unemployed	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	13.0	21.8	4.8	4.3
Business and management	17.1	31.4	3.8	3.4
Education	12.9	13.5	2.9	3.5
Engineering	4.7	7.3	6.0	7.6
Health professions	7.0	7.6	4.3	4.6
Public affairs/social services	6.8	21.4	4.2	4.8
Biological sciences	12.1	21.5	6.5	8.3
Mathematics and science	12.5	22.1	5.6	3.8
Social sciences	19.5	33.5	4.6	4.9
History	15.3	22.3	6.5	3.6
Humanities	13.4	26.8	7.3	3.3
Psychology	22.6	22.0	5.2	5.0
Other	9.0	21.4	3.5	5.2

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1993 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study, First Follow-up (B&B:93/94).

Table S31 Standard errors for the text table in *Indicator 31*

Selected characteristics	Employment and enrollment status					Relatedness of job to education		
	Employed full time, not enrolled	Employed part time, not enrolled	In labor force, enrolled	Not in labor force, enrolled	Not employed, not enrolled	Job related to field of study	Job required college degree	Job had career potential
Total	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.8
Field of study								
Business and management	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.6	1.3	2.0	1.5
Education	1.7	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.7	1.7	1.8	1.6
Engineering	2.2	0.9	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.5	2.1	1.7
Health professions	2.1	1.0	1.7	0.8	1.1	1.2	2.6	1.9
Public affairs/social services	2.8	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	3.5	4.0	3.4
Biological sciences	2.8	1.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	3.6	4.0	3.7
Mathematics and science	2.5	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.3	2.1	3.0	2.3
Social sciences	1.7	0.8	1.3	0.8	0.9	2.2	2.7	2.0
History	4.2	2.5	3.5	1.7	1.3	6.2	6.3	6.7
Humanities	2.0	1.4	1.3	0.8	1.3	2.7	2.7	2.6
Psychology	3.2	1.4	2.7	1.8	2.3	4.1	4.1	4.2
Other	1.6	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.8	1.8	2.4	2.7
Sex								
Male	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.1	1.3	1.1
Female	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.9	1.1	1.0
College grade point average								
Less than 3.0	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.6	1.3	1.5	1.3
3.0 to 3.49	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.3	1.4
3.5 and higher	1.2	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.3	1.8	1.3

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1993 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study, First Follow-up (B&B:93/94).

Table S31-1 Standard errors for table 31-1

Field of study	Percentage in administrative or clerical support occupations		Percentage unemployed	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4
Business and management	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.9
Education	0.2	0.3	1.1	0.6
Engineering	0.1	*0.0	1.3	4.0
Health professions	0.1	0.2	1.3	1.4
Public affairs/social services	0.1	0.2	2.8	1.5
Biological sciences	0.1	0.1	1.9	3.3
Mathematics and science	0.2	0.2	1.3	1.3
Social sciences	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.2
History	0.1	0.1	4.0	2.1
Humanities	0.2	0.3	2.0	0.8
Psychology	0.1	0.2	2.1	1.4
Other	0.2	0.3	1.0	1.0

* Standard error less than 0.05 is rounded to 0.0.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1993 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study, First Follow-up (B&B:93/94).